



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT STARTED IN ALASKA

An agreement with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks establishing the 15th Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit with a land-grant college was signed last week, Albert M. Day, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman. Cooperating with the Service in sponsoring and financing the unit are the Alaska Game Commission, the University of Alaska, and the Wildlife Management Institute of Washington, D. C.

Cooperative Wildlife Research Units have been active at land-grant colleges since 1935. There are now 15. Their operations are financed by the colleges, state game and conservation commissions, the Wildlife Management Institute (a private organization), and by Federal funds provided through the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The units train college students for jobs with Federal and state governments in wildlife management and conservation. They also conduct investigations and research upon which practical wildlife management by the Federal and state governments is based. The results of these investigations guide farmers and landowners in general to build up and maintain the country's wildlife resources. In several states the Units cooperate with or supervise Federal-aid wildlife research projects.

More than 500 bulletins, articles, and books reporting research findings have been published by Unit personnel since the establishment of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Program. More than 800 students have received undergraduate and postgraduate training.

The Fish and Wildlife Service assigns a biologist to each unit on a full-time basis. He supervises the work of graduate student assistants, and conducts some research personally. Undergraduate students specializing in conservation or wildlife management frequently receive training at the units by doing part-time work. Faculty members of the colleges also participate in the research activities.

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